(b) Yes, Sir. The reasons for decline in the exports of marine products are as follows:—

(i) Lesser production from shrimp culture farms due to the observance of crop holiday.

(ii) Area under shrimp farming could not increase due to non-availability of financial support from commercial banks for aquaculture activities and on account of a ban imposed by the Supreme Court on further expansion of aquaculture.

(iii) Internal problems in Japan led to a decrease in the imports of shrimp.

(iv) Poor landings of commercially valuable fishes from the Upper West Coast of India led to a decline in exports to South East Asian market.

(v) The unit value realisation for Frozen Shrimp and Frozen Fish was lower than the preceding year.

(c) The Government has kept the HSD Oil Subsidy Scheme in abeyance.

(d) The contribution of deep sea fishing vessels to the export effort has been meagre.

Import and export of Electronic Items

756. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of electronic items can be imported or exported under the Exim policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the importers of these items have to fulfil the conditions pertaining to export;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target fixed in this regard for 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e): While under the current Export and Import Policy there is no restriction on export of electronic items, importability of such items is indicated itemwise in the ITC (HC) Classifications of Export and Import items. The question of imposing export obligation arises only when duty-free imports are made under Export Promotion Schemes and no specific targets can be fixed in this regard.

Protection of Farm Land from Non-Farm use

757. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to suggestions made by noted agriculturists of the country that food needs of mushrooming population of country can be met in case farm lands are protected from non-farm use and conservation of ground water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take note of these valuable suggestions and take measures to implement same;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The Government is aware and concerned about protection of agricultural land and conservation of water resources for increasing production of agricultural commodities in general, and foodgrains in particular to meet the increasing demand of the growing popultion. Land being a State subject the necessary steps for protection of farmland from non-farm use are taken by the States. However, the Government of India have been repeatedly impressing upon all the States & Union Territories to protect good agricultural land from being diverted to non-agricultural

purposes. In this regard Government of India have also formulated a National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and 19 point decision on Land Use were adopted. The NLPO has been circulated to all the States/UTs and concerned Central Ministries/Organisations for its implementation.The NLPO inter-alia envisages restructuring the Urban Policy to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away. Besides, few States and UTs have taken the legislative and regulatory measures for diversion/ acquiring agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

In order to conserve ground water resources conjuctive use of surface and ground water resources has been encouraged. The National Water Policy prohibits the over-use of ground water in excess of annual recharge. A model Bill for Control and Regulation of Ground Waterhas also been circulated to States by Centre to serve as legal basis of ground water development. the Central Ground Water Board has circulated to the State Governments a manual to serve as guidelines for formulation of ground water recharge schemes. Integrated water-shed development and construction of ground water dams–underground Bandharas which are sub-surface barriers and retard natural ground water flow and store water below ground surface is also being advocated to the states, as a ground water conservation measure.

Capital Restructuring of M/s Bridge & Roof Company Ltd.

758. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal from M/s Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd. (B&R), a subsidiary of Bharat Yantra Nigam for capital restructuring;

(b) the date when the proposal was received by Department of Heavy Industry;

(c) whether the proposal has been approved, if so, the date from which it will be effective;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(e) whether banks and financial institutions are insisting on delinking of M/s Bridge & Roof from its holding company before granting term loan etc.; and

(f) if so, the action taken by Government to arrange funds for B & R?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposal regarding Capital restructuring of B&R Company Limited was received on 25.1.94.

(c) and (d) No final decision has been taken. Time involved in consulting various Departments/Agencies and in sorting out issues arisen during the process has been the main cause of delay.

(e) and (f) B&R has approached banks/financial institutions for raising loans. Banks/financial institutions are not insisting on delinking of Bridge & Roof from its holding company before grant of loan.

Amalgamation of Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

759. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the role and functions of the Super Bazar and the Kendriya Bhandar are virtually identical and same;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to amalgamate the two organisations to effect economy in management expenditure vis-a-vis to make prices of the items cheaper; and